



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Minutes 11-20-08

ARLINGTON YOUTH HEALTH AND SAFETY COALITION

MINUTES

Thursday, November 20, 2008
5:30-7:00PM

Present: Andrea Razi, Lucille Nicholson, Erin Canty, Bryan Gallagher, Ellen Digby, Ethel Doyle, Cindy Sheridan Curran, Natasha Thorne, Christine Sharkey, Colleen Leger, Annie LaCourt, Leon Cantor, Kathy Hirsch, John Scheft

Attendees: 14

I. Welcome/Introductions

New AYHSC Director, Colleen Leger, introduced to members of the Leadership Team

II. New Marijuana Law: G.L. c. 94C, §32L

Explanation of legal & practical implications presented by John Scheft

Adult offenders: \$100 fine + forfeiture of marijuana. Juvenile offenders: \$100 fine; forfeiture of marijuana; parental/guardian notification; mandatory drug awareness program. Failure of minors under 17 to pay fine or complete drug awareness program within a year may result in a delinquency hearing in juvenile court. Law does not address sanctions for repeat offenders. Any participation in the distribution or transfer of marijuana is NOT covered by new law. Cultivation of any kind is a criminal event. Definition of "possession" has been expanded to include "internal consumption". Law does not address how police should proceed with offenders who fail to identify themselves.

Police will use the same citations for possession violations as they do for any other ordinance/bylaw violation. John Scheft will participate on state-level working group to address practical implications of new law. Work with Board of Selectmen to propose local regulations/ bylaws regarding public use and consumption of marijuana. John Scheft to work with Arlington Police Department on how to proceed under new law. *Ability to search and seize unaffected by law.*

III. Diversion Program

Cindy Sheridan Curran, Coordinator

Worked with John Scheft to develop a new and improved Diversion Program Contract. Contracts to remain open for one year. Inclusion criteria modified, though referrals from Police and school officials unaltered. Four phases of Diversion Program: Intake, Commitment, Participation, Completion.

Possibility of drug testing as a component of the Diversion contract. Interest in developing a Community Service Bank. Coalition to collaborate with AHS on identifying and managing community service opportunities throughout the community.

IV. Overview of CMCA Strategic Intervention

Communities Mobilizing for Change on Alcohol: substance abuse prevention model that utilizes community organizing to change the physical and social environments within a community to reduce availability of alcohol to minors. Activities to reduce *commercial availability* of alcohol to minors: Compliance checks, administrative penalties for alcohol retailers, Responsible Beverage Server Trainings, Minimum Age-of Seller Requirements. Activities to reduce *social availability* of alcohol to minors: Beer Keg Registration, Social Host Liability Ordinance, Alcohol Restrictions on Public Property, Alcohol Restrictions at Community Events. Shoulder Tap surveys. Cops in Shops. Discussion about Arlington youth buying from package stores in neighboring communities

Plans to develop CMCAS working group. Organize/Schedule CMCA trainings to be conducted within the next several months. Schedule meeting between consultant, Jim Staples, and the Liquor Licensing Board/Arlington Police within the next month. Schedule training for off-site alcohol retailers (owners, managers and clerks). Include Belmont stores? Medford stores? Schedule training for pouring establishments.

V. Organizing Working Groups

Coalition Leadership to spearhead and participate in various working groups that will be responsible for organizing/facilitating the implementation of substance abuse prevention activities. Working groups will be open to, and encourage, community member participation. Working groups that have been identified, but for which information must be provided include: Community Forum, CMCA, YRBS, Youth Council, High Risk Youth. YRBS working group may want to reach out to OPAC.

Annie LaCourt will be willing to help organize Community Forum working group. Natasha Thorne and Ellen Digby willing to participate in Community Forum working group. Date and time to be determined. Coalition will conduct outreach to parents who attended last year's community forum. Andrea Razi interested in Youth Council and/or High Risk Youth working groups.

VI. Prescription Drug Take- back Program

Next organized town-wide take back will occur at Earth Day event on the first weekend of May. DEA requires licensed Pharmacist or Police Officer to be take back discarded prescription medications. Need to recruit Police Officers who would be interested in participating in take-back event. Identity/Contact a Pharmacist would could get involved in the effort.